

BERMUDA HUNDRED UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2025 FLORENCE AVENUE, CHESTER, VA 23836
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December 2015 Newsletter

MYSTERY PERSON!

Who are we?

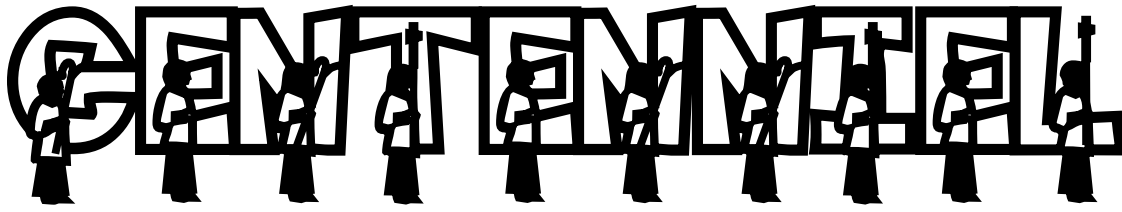
E-MAIL YOUR ANSWER & PHOTOS TO BHUMCHURCH@COMCAST.NET

Grace Anderson guessed our person for November. It was Ilyssa Snyder!



Please send us a picture for next month's newsletter!

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please call (804) 530-1391 or e-mail us at bhumchurch@comcast.net to have your name removed. Thank you!



december
2015

Happy New Year!

It is Advent – begins the Christian New Year!

Advent is a time to be awake, watchful, ready, and prepared for something the coming of Christ!

We remember how Christ came into the world bringing light into the dark, coming as a Prince of Peace into a world of turmoil, coming as our Savior and Redeemer to free us from sin and death!

This past Sunday we read from Psalm 126
When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.
Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.



The Psalmist here, encourages the people to remember what it was like to dream and how they may begin to dream again.

During this advent season, maybe our greatest Christian joy is to be "like those who dream" especially, on behalf of those who can no longer dream. Maybe our highest calling is to be "designated dreamers" in a world that beats into everyone with monotonous regularity that we need to "stop dreaming" and to "get real."

That's what the ancient psalmist did for his people; he became their designated dreamer.

His dreams ignited people to rebuild their homes, their city, and their Temple.

How dare we dream of such things in a world like ours, a world that crucified the Savior who loved it unto death?

Continued on the next page

I'll tell you how—because the good news for ALL the world still proclaims that the light that came into the dark world still shines! Our Redeemer lives, our Savior has defeated sin and death, and Christ is our Messiah, the King of Kings!

We can dream because we follow a Dreamer who invites us to lift up and love all those who have been beaten by sin, darkness, and destruction in the world, all who have been stymied into silence, and those stripped of any hope for more than another day of mere existence. Our Savior comes into the world and calls us to live "like those who dream."

When we look at the Scriptures we find that God often reveals God's self to people in visions and dreams, and we see this especially during the time of Jesus' birth.

Luke, who records the visions of Ananias, Cornelius, Peter, and Paul (Acts 9:10; 10; 18:9), informs us that the people "realized [Zechariah] had seen a vision in the temple" (Luke 1:22). Matthew tells us that the announcement of Christ's birth, the warning to flee to Egypt, and the invitation to return to Israel came to Joseph in three dreams; and that the wise men returned home by a different route "having been warned in a dream."

This advent I invite you to become more aware of the number of times the Word of the Lord comes through visions and dreams in the Bible. We see this in Abram, Jacob, Joseph, Samuel, Nathan, Solomon, Daniel, Zechariah, Joseph, Peter, Paul, and Ananias. God also appeared in dreams to Gentiles, most notably to Abimelech, the imprisoned cupbearer and baker in Egypt; Pharaoh; an unnamed Midianite soldier during the days of Gideon; Nebuchadnezzar; the wise men; and Cornelius. Seven books of the Bible are expressly identified as visions: Isaiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Obadiah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and the book of Revelation.

This year's Advent series, "Waking to God's Dream" focuses on how God would have us dream as we hear from Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Simeon, and Anna and the dreams God revealed to them in the coming of Jesus Christ.

God gave each of them a dream or dreams a fulfillment in immediate history *and* an ultimate fulfillment in the birth of Jesus.

Join us this Advent! We've already begun to learn this past Sunday "How to Dream Again."

Waking to God's Dream

November 30 "How to Dream Again"

December 6 "Waiting on a Dream"

December 13 "Giving Birth to a Dream"

December 20 "Don't Give Up on the Dream"

December 24 "Dreams Really Do Come True"

December 27 "Embracing God's Dream"

My hope for all of us along the way, is that we will all be opened to the possibility of hearing God's call in our own dreams and visions.

After all, God promised us as much: "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions" (Joel 2:28).

Together, let us "Waken to God's Dream"!

In God's Love,
Pastor Beth

Children and Youth Ministry

United Methodist Youth Fellowship

November was a great month for our Youth. They held the First Annual Health and Wellness Fair which raised over \$400 towards mission trips this summer! Sorry you missed it! Don't worry, we plan on making this an annual event to help raise money for mission trips.

The holiday season is right around the corner, our youth can't wait to participate in all the holiday events at church to include Hanging of the Greens and the Christmas Eve Service. All are invited to join the youth in some of their holiday fun this year! Check out the schedule below and make plans to join us for the Walk to Bethlehem and Christmas Caroling.

November 29 th	Hanging of the Greens 4pm (volunteer wherever needed)
December 6 th	Walk Through Bethlehem 5-7pm (family invited, meet at church 5pm ride together)
December 13 th	Caroling and Hot chocolate 6-8pm (friends and family invited)
December 20 th	Practice for Christmas Eve service 12pm (directly after 11am service)
December 24 th	Christmas Eve Service
December 27 th	No YOUTH (Christmas Break)

The entire church and their friends and family are invited to any and all of these events. Please come join in the fellowship of the holiday season and get to know our amazing youth group!

Children's Ministry

November kicked off our new quarterly events that we plan to have for three separate age groups of children. Pastor Beth took the 4-5th graders on a Rock and Roll Summit! The event was great! We are excited to start planning other events like this every quarter for the 1-2nd graders, 3-4th graders, and more for the 4-5th graders.

We had a Children's Church meeting and put our heads together to help make this time for your little ones extra special with a lot of worship and fun. Please encourage your kiddos to come and join us downstairs. Starting in January, there will be worship time, and then a cool lesson with some activities and crafts. ALL children ages 2 years through 3rd grade (4th and 5th grades welcome to come and help out) are invited!

For the month of December we will be using Children Church time to practice for the Children's Christmas Program. I encourage all of children and youth to come down and participate. We will find a part that is suited for you! If your child is worried about speaking in front of others, they can help us sing songs. The program last year was wonderful and I am sure this one will be even better! I can't wait to see all our children's beautiful faces singing joyous Christmas songs and telling a traditional Christmas story!

Love and Peace,
Laurel Sage, Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Photos from November 2015



(Above & Right) Thank you to everyone who came out for the Hanging of the Greens on Nov. 29 and helped to prepare the church for Advent!

(Above Right) Thank you to everyone who gave to the CCHASM Thanksgiving baskets. BHUMC was able to give a Thanksgiving dinner to 5 families!

(Below) Thank you to Sherry Strosnider, Stacie, Ethan & Ilyssa Snyder for being the Advent readers for the Nov. 29 11am service.

(Below Left) We celebrated Consecration Sunday with a potluck luncheon on Nov. 1.



Operation Christmas Child Update!



Operation Christmas Child at BHUMC in 2015 was a success! I would like to thank everyone who donated items, packed a shoebox, came to our packing party or donated money for shipping fees for Operation Christmas Child. Extra-special thanks to Betty Skaggs and Summer Lannan for helping set up for shoebox packing on Saturday. Thanks to all of you, 124 children across the world will receive a shoebox gift and the message that Jesus loves them! But it doesn't stop there~what happens after the shoebox? Children have the opportunity to participate in a 12-lesson Bible study course in their language called The Greatest Journey, with a graduation ceremony and their own copy of the New Testament at the end of the course. It costs \$6 per child for The Greatest Journey. For more information, visit this website:

<http://www.samaritanaspurse.org/what-we-do/the-greatest-journey/>

-Jessica Mathis

Children from the Bermuda Hundred Child Development Center holding up shoeboxes that they will help to pack with gifts for Operation Christmas Child!



Safe Sanctuaries Training

The Discipleship Team will conduct Safe Sanctuaries Training for all who volunteer with children and youth on **Sunday, January 31, 12-2pm** with lunch provided.

Safe Sanctuaries is an overt expression in making congregations safe places where children, youth, and elders may experience the abiding love of God and fellowship within the community of faith. All who volunteer with children and youth ministry are asked to participate in one of these training opportunities.

For any questions or further information please contact Laurel Sage, Director of Children and Youth Ministry or Tabitha Strickler, Chair of Discipleship Team.



**Sunday
January 31, 2016
12-2pm**

Stewardship

Earn. Save. Give. - BHUMC 2015 Stewardship Program & Commitment Cards

Dear BHUMC,

November was a very busy stewardship month, marked by the culmination of our annual stewardship program with Consecration Sunday on November 1st and some outstanding progress towards achieving our 2015 financial goals. But the month was also tremendously full of other amazing acts of giving by many members and participants at our church – and for that we are greatly appreciative and blessed.

An important thank you and reminder in regards to continuing our church's wonderful sharing of time, gifts and talents into 2016, specifically with our commitment cards for next year. We have received a good number of commitment cards for 2016, they are generous and full of sharing – thank you! If you have not completed and returned a commitment card for next year – it's not too late... Please prayerfully consider your connection to this commitment and fill out a card for next year – we hope that everyone with any connection to attendance at our church would think/pray about challenging your stewardship commitment for 2016 to reach new giving heights, to be more consistent or even just to start giving.

Why is this important? Because we make a difference in the world, in our community and in our church by sharing of our time, gifts and talents, for God and His Kingdom. ***As a result of our commitment to our giving in 2015 we have made SIGNIFICANT progress toward our 2015 goals – currently we have funded nearly all of our apportionments - at 92% through November.*** We hope to continue this amazing, inspirational giving through the month of December to finish the year strong and allow all of us to celebrate a 3rd consecutive year of achieving this goal – KUDOS to all of you – THANK YOU. We can do it, we are doing it, and we will do it!

REMINDER – please complete and return your commitment cards for 2016 so that we may continue this great success of sharing God's love into 2016 and beyond.

You will be made
rich in every way
so that you can
be generous on
every occasion,
and through us
your generosity
will result in
thanksgiving to
God.
2 Cor. 9:11-12

Apportionments Commitment Success Tracker

- Your generous tithes & offerings are applied to fund our Church's obligations towards Apportionments. Funding 100% of these Apportionments is a key component to supporting UMC ministries further and the sharing of God's Word. Help us achieve full funding of Apportionments for the 3rd consecutive year in 2015.

TO DATE THROUGH NOV.

■ Paid Through November
■ NOT paid through November



2015 ANNUAL GOAL

■ Achieved through November
■ Annual Goal Remaining



Thank you to all and in God's Grace,

Your stewardship committee

Dave Steinbraker, Dorothy Mooney, Ann McNinch, Charles Woodward and Bill Talley V



Join us for fun, food &
fellowship!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

KEENAGERS

Meet at 10am in the BHUMC parking lot
to carpool to the Virginia Diner in
Wakefield for lunch



- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Krisann Mayes |
| 2 | Amanda Scruggs Chunn, Carlene Cheatham;
Zander Jenkins |
| 3 | Binford Sloan II, Willard Lundy, Mike Morris |
| 5 | Frederick Mayes |
| 6 | Joe Sloan, Will Sloan |
| 7 | Betty Forbes |
| 8 | Linda Gutshall |
| 11 | Marc Wilts, Paul Morgan |
| 12 | Wendy Brown |
| 13 | Jason Sage |
| 16 | Ola Wyatt, Radiley Anderson |
| 23 | Arlene Stanton |
| 29 | Chad Ritenour, Fred Proper |
| 31 | Jared Caples, Melissa Anderson |

December Meetings & Small Groups

- Join us for a Wednesday Morning Prayer Service every Wednesday at 7:00 am
- Keenagers meet on Wednesday, December 2 at 10:00 am to carpool to the Virginia Diner in Wakefield
 - Advent Bible Study at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays (Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23) in the Grundy Parlor
 - SPRC meets on Thursday, December 3 at 6:00 pm in the Grundy Parlor
- Starting Point meets for pizza with the pastor on Sunday, December 6 at noon in the Grundy Parlor
- Confirmation class meets at 2:00 pm on Sunday, December 6 to go to the Walk Through Bethlehem
 - SPRC leaves the church at 3:00 pm on Sunday, December 6 to carpool to attend the District SPRC training at Waverly UMC from 4-6pm
- Finance Committee will meet Tuesday, December 8 at 6:30 pm in the Grundy Parlor
- Church Council will meet Tuesday, December 8 at 7:30 pm in the Grundy Parlor
 - Cookie Collection at 11:00 am on Wednesday, December 9
- Worship Service at the Crossings at Ironbridge on Thursday, December 10 at 2:00 pm
 - The UMM meets at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, December 15 at the Rivers Bend Grill
 - The Gladys Toom small group meets on Wednesday, December 16 at 2:00 pm
 - The Worship Team meets Thursday, December 17 at 6:30 pm in the Grundy Parlor
- The UMW meets at 6:30 pm on Monday, December 21 for the UMW Christmas party at the Forbes home
 - Family Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 pm
 - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 11:00 pm
- There will be one worship service at 11:00 am on Sunday, December 27

December Youth Calendar:

December 6th 5-7pm Walk Through Bethlehem (meet at church 5pm & ride together)

December 13th 6-8pm Caroling and Hot Chocolate (friends and family invited)

December 20th 12pm Practice for Christmas Eve Service (directly after the 11am service)

December 24th Christmas Eve Service

December 27th No Youth (Christmas Break)



Prayer
Shawl
Ministry

January 12, 2016
1pm @ Lilly Enz's house

NEED A RIDE?

I have a minivan. I bought it so I could give people a ride wherever they needed to go. If you need a ride, I will try to accommodate you. Call me at (804) 530-1584 or on my cell at (804) 243-1904.

-Charles Woodard



United Methodist Women

The next United Methodist Women's meeting will be Monday, December 21 at 6:30 pm at the Forbes home. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre to share and a gift (either something that you already have or a gift not over \$10.00) in a brown paper grocery bag (either taped or stapled at the top) with no decorations on the bag for a Chinese gift exchange.

We have 2 Mitten Trees this year. One is outside the Pastor's Office and one in the Fellowship Hall. The items we will be collecting are undies, socks, hats scarves and gloves, they will go to local elementary schools grades K-5. Please have the items on the trees by Sunday, December 6th.

-Doris Morefield, UMW President



Church Christmas Card
Post Office
Open For Business
November 29th
Bring your Christmas
cards for church
members and save
postage!



Attention all bakers...

We're meeting on
Wednesday,
December 9 at 11am
in the Fellowship Hall
to put together cookie bags for
special people in our
Church community.

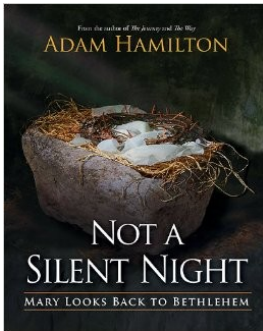
**Bring 2 dozen of your favorite
homemade cookies
and help fill the bags
(and distribute if you can).**

Recommendations
welcomed.

See Peggy Proper if you
have any questions.



Just Coffee




We have begun a study for Advent called "Not a Silent Night." This study by Adam Hamilton focuses on the story of Christ through the eyes of his mother: "Imagine Jesus from Mary's point-of-view—proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. In this book, Adam Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the crucifixion and resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses his life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ child born in a stable, Mary's beautiful baby. This year, experience Advent and Christmas with Mary."

Join us in the Fellowship Hall during Sunday School (9:45-10:45am).

Sunday, December 6-

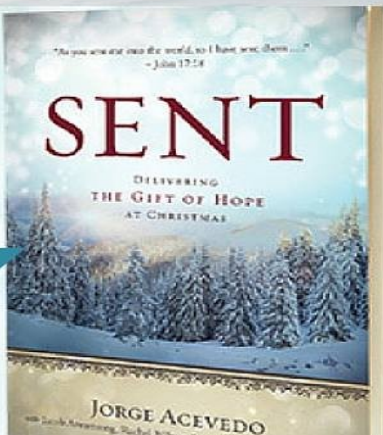
How are you Wired?

**Learn about your Spiritual Gifts
& enjoy Pizza with the Pastor
in the Grundy Parlor at noon.**



AS HE WAS SENT...
now, so are we.

4 Week Bible Study
7-9pm Wednesdays in
December



Missions

As we reflect on all of the mission projects this year, our church can see that we are truly blessed to be able to share with others who are less fortunate! Thank you everyone for your kindness and generosity in both time and donations.

The Crafty Ladies raised over \$5,200.00 from the craft show. Thank you to all of the women and men who put their heart and soul into making this craft show a huge success. All of the money raised goes to some form of mission project. Bless each of you. The Lord gave each of you many talents.

Seven members from our church went to Petersburg to feed 77 hungry people on Tuesday, November 24. A Thanksgiving feast was prepared and Mary Simmons made pocket crosses and peeps for the adults and children. Thanks to everyone who participated!

The CCHASM Thanksgiving food drive was a huge success! We raised \$1,898.00 and gave out food baskets to 5 families. CCHASM was able to give out 2,500 Thanksgiving baskets with a total of 2,776 bags put together for the Thanksgiving meals. They were also able to distribute 400 bags of miscellaneous items to the various food pantries that CCHASM serves.

Merry Christmas!

Ann McNinch, Missions Chair

(l-r) Betty Forbes, Stuart Morefield, Doris Linkous, Martha Meadows, Margaret Reynolds, Doris Morefield, Glenn Harrison, Pat Leach, Tammie Gryskewicz, Peggy Proper, Lilly Enz, Ann McNinch & Ola Wyatt.



Please note that several of the stainless steel bowls (the church name is written on the rim of the bowls) and a large short-handled cooking spoon are missing from the downstairs kitchen. If you have borrowed these items, please return them to the church. Thank you.

United Methodist Men

The Bermuda Hundred United Methodist Men wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We have had a very successful year and we couldn't do our work without your support, thank you. Enjoy the moments this time of year provides, for family and friends, and for those less fortunate than us. Try to focus on Bethlehem more than Santa, and remember to be thankful for all that has been given to you.

Charles Woodard-UMM President



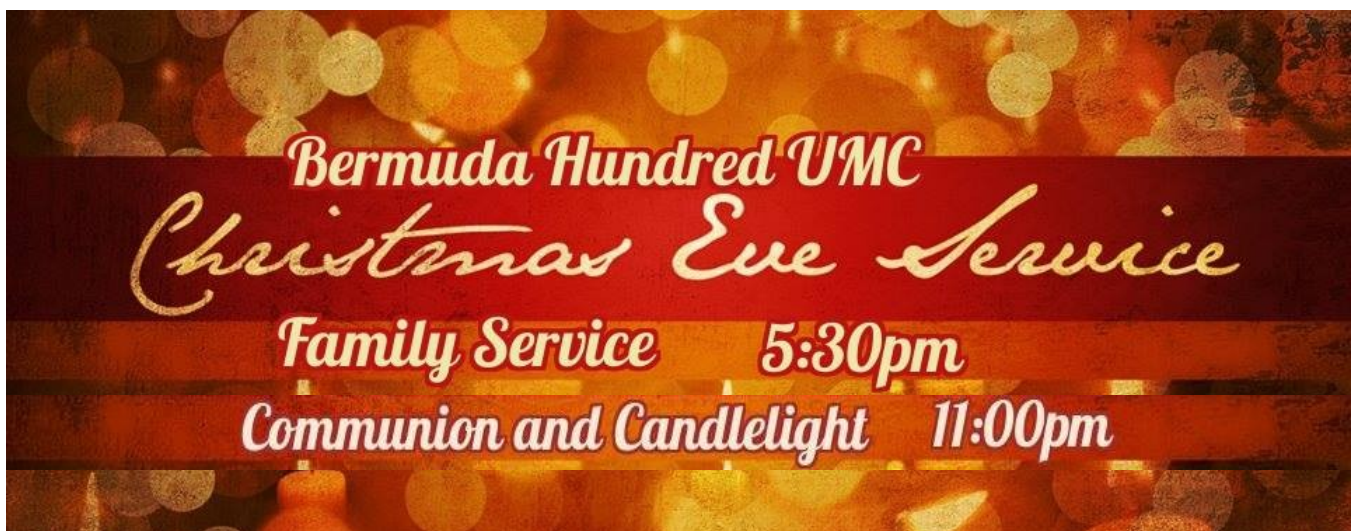
Technology Fund

Edna Sherrill is heading up the effort to upgrade our sound system. These improvements will allow all of us to hear the words and music better in our church areas. It will also allow personal hearing devices for anyone needing them. You'll hear more about this in the future, but consider a donation to the Technology Fund to support this effort.

Charles Woodard



Merry Christmas!
The church office will
be closed on
Friday, December 25



December 2015 Sunday Servants

SERVANT	DECEMBER 6 Communion Sunday	DECEMBER 13	DECEMBER 20	DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:30PM & 11:00PM	DECEMBER 27
8:30 am Usher/ Greeters	Marc & Mindy Wilts	Neil & Ditty Mooney	Deborah Shelton	5:30 pm: TBA	TBA
11:00 am Usher/ Greeters	Sidney & Glenn Harrison	Kathleen McNinch & Sandy Forbes	Doris & Frank Linkous	11:00 pm: Sandy Forbes & Owens McNinch	Youth
Acolytes	Virginia Winn & Juli Mathis	Maggie Steinbraker & Jordan Mathis	Matthew Coker & Savannah Talley	TBA	Branwyn McCormick & Dylan Craddock
Lay Readers	8:30 am TBA 11:00 am Bill Talley	8:30 am TBA 11am Liz McDonough	8:30 am TBA 11am Ken Alexander	5:30 pm: Youth 11:00 pm: Kevin Anderson	8:30 am TBA 11am Tina Morris
Children's Church	Kelly Mooney	Sheila LaRue	Bill Talley V	N/A	Jessica & Jenna Mathis
Nursery	8:30 am TBA 9:45 am Ashley Hearst 11:00 am Debbie Winn	8:30 am TBA 9:45 am Tori Alexander 11:00 am Bobbie Miller	8:30 am TBA 9:45 am TBA 11:00 am Mary Simmons	N/A	8:30 am TBA 9:45 am TBA 11:00 am Mindy Cline
UMYF Meals (Sundays at 6:00pm)	Volunteer & Dinner: Katie Sloan	Volunteer: Lisa Crowder Dinner: Tammie Gryskevicz	Volunteer: Lisa Crowder No meeting. Youth practice after 11am worship service	Christmas Eve Service	No UMYF— Christmas Break

Altar Guild for December: Doris & Frank Linkous, Doris & Stuart Morefield

12/6/15 11am Communion Servers: Bill, Amie-Anne & Savannah Talley

If you cannot serve on your assigned Sunday, please call your contact as soon as possible:

8:30 AM Ushers/Greeters: Mindy Wilts at 586-7195 / 11:00 AM Ushers/Greeters: Sandy Forbes at 530-2055

Acolytes: Meredith Steinbraker at 896-0364

Altar Guild: Nancy Byrd at 530-5319